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(?NARVAL)
(ANTARCTIQUE)
FROM EDINBURGH TO
THE ANTARCTIC
An Artist's Notes and Sketches during
the Dundee Antarctic Expedition of
1892-93
BY W. G. BURN MURDOCH
WITH A CHAPTER BY W. S. BRUCE
NATURALIST OF THE BARQUE BALENA'
LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.
AND NEW YORK: 15 EAST 16TH STREET
1894
279
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OCEANO
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NOW.)
APHIQUE

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344
[17 décembre 1892, détart de
Bransfield, ocean antarctique
le Balaena,
FROM EDINBURGH TO THE ANTARCTIC
209
Just after killing the seal there was a shout amongst
the men forward, 'A Uni! A Uni!'-the whalers' term
for a Narwhale.
horns.
The crow's-nest
cask, about five
feet deep, paint-
ed white, with
iron clamps that
clasp on to the
main-topgallant
mast. In the

bottom there is
a trap-door. To
get into the nest
you climb up a
Jacob's ladder-
wooden ratlins
rigged on two
Several men said they saw their
was sent aloft to-day. It is a
backstays that run from the top-gallant mast-head to the cross-trees; these run through the bottom of the tub. You climb up these and shove the trap open with your head, and when you are right into the tub you let the trap shut and stand on it, and enjoy the extensive view.
below you,
you prefer it, you can sit on a shelf-seat fixed in the back of the tub-a sheltered, quiet place, far removed from the troubles of the little world below: round the top of the tub there is a small iron balustrade, on which a screen runs, so as to shelter the watcher from the wind.
If
The boats were all lowered from the skids to the
MUSÉE OCEANOGRAPHIQUE
DE MONACO
sur
→ de unicorn.
t
cvidemment

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NARWHAL-LIKE DOLPHIN IN
Old tusker
FOSSILS Ancient tusked
dolphin found in
New Zealand.
Evidence that a tusked dolphin once swam
he seas has recently been uncovered in New
'ealand. Ewan Fordyce, a cetacean
alaeobiologist from Otago University.
New Zealand. made the discovery in a
imestone quarry in the Hakataramea Valley.
South Canterbury.
Mecca of today's dolphin-lovers - you
Cetacean snippets
Whales and dolphins the cetaceans - evolved from terrestrial mammals around 50 million years ago, during a phase when mammals were rapidly filling every possible ecological niche left by the recession of the dinosaurs. The order Cetacea comprises 44 living genera and about 150 fossil genera.

The first cetaceans were the Archaeoceti, amphibious mammals which probably colonised estuaries. Adaptations which enabled the animal to catch fast marine fish allowed them a progressively more aquatic mode of life. Toothed whales and dolphins (the Odontocetes) and filter-feeders (the Mysticetes) proliferated in the Oligocene Miocene.
can swim with them 80km from the inland rocks where the fossil was found - New Zealand's South Island was partially covered by a shallow sea during the early Miocene,
around 23 million years ago. The discovery of such an ancient specimen is like a spotlight on the early vacillations of cetacean evolution.
Comprising the skull - about a metre long- the lower jaws, many small teeth. parts of the fore-flipper. ribs and spine. the fossil indicates a body length of around 5 to 6 metres. The tusk is a modified tooth which grew out forwards from the jaw. proportionally longer than the teeth of any living cetacean except the narwhal's Whether these teeth had a function, or were a male display, can only be guessed at. Originally about 30cm in length (including the root), they may have been broken by fighting.
The dolphin appears to be a new species. possibly a new genus, in the extinct family Squalodelphidae. This group contained early toothed dolphins that fed on fish and other marine prey. They are also known from finds in Argentina, Italy, France and elsewhere in New Zealand. Their closest living relatives are from the family Platanistidae. the endangered
S. PACIFIC
river dolphins in the Ganges and the Indus. The find confirms that the platanistoids were originally widespread in the oceans even though they are now present only in freshwater habitats
The rise of the Delphinoidea modern dolphin families occurred at about the

same time. Now the most diverse and widespread of all the cetaceans, these delphinids also developed sophisticated echolocation to catch high-speed prey. Using it to communicate socially may (among other variables we don't know about yet) have given them the competitive edge

ALISON CRAIG
Pate Visscher
Ewan Fordyce

◆ Skull construction. This is a specul. lateral view of tl tusked dolphin's head based on t fossilised skull (below). There a insufficient fossi dolphins to be si what the bodies were like.

The gentle touch

PARASITISM Swifts are ot slowed down by their sect parasites.

esearch on Oxford's celebrated swifts has covered a pair of parasites that do not pear to harm their hosts. The parasites in Jestion are a chewing louse - which ends its time riding on the backs of vifts and a louse fly, which lives in the rds' nests. The louse feeds on blood and .in debris, while the fly sucks blood from s host every five days or so.

Zoologists have long suspected that these irasites might be relatively harmless, :spite their gruesome habits. To find out r sure, Dan Tompkins and his colleagues the University of Oxford took parasites om one set of nests and added them to hers, thereby creating nests with either gh or low numbers of each parasite. The team detected no differences tween the two sets of nests. Growth of :stlings and fledging success - the oportion of nests in which all young edged successfully - were apparently affected by the level of parasite festation (Functional Ecology, vol. 10.

733-40).
Why are the parasites so considerate
3C Wildlife July 1997
15/1977
towards their victims! Unlike many other parasites, the chewing louse and the louse fly infect new hosts mainly via 'vertical transmission - from parents to their offspring. If the parasites had seriously damaging effects, then their own young would get inferior-quality hosts, and that wouldn't make evolutionary sense.
CLARE PUTNAM
Tower flock
Since 1948. the tower of the Oxford University Museum of Science has been equipped with nestboxes for swifts for long term research purposes
The birds return to Oxford from South Africa every May, and raise a brood of two or three youngsters before flying south again
◆ Classic research on the birds was carried out by the late David Lack, author of Swifts in a Tower (1956).
Derek Bromhall/Oxford Scientific Films
◆ Itchy nest syndrome.
The louse fly lives i swifts' nests.
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SCHOUTEN, Guillaume (=Willem Cornelisz)
SOUTHERN NARWHAL-LIKE ANIMAL
1619 Journal ou description du merveilleux voyage de Guillaume chouten, Hollandois natif de Hoorn, fait ès années 1615, 1616 & 1617. Amsterdam, chez Harman Ianson : 9-10.
(Atlantique nord, octobre 1615, à bord de l'Eendracht).
"Le 5 d'october [sic] nous nous trouvasmes à la hauteur de 4 degrez 17 minutes, sur le midy y avoit un grand bruit au devat du navire, tellement que le maistre du navire, estant en arrière en la galerie, pensa que quelqu'un des matelots tomboit de la proue du navire en la mer, & redargant [sic] du costé du navire, vid que la mer n'estoit que du sang, comme s'il y eut esté espandu beaucoup de sang, sans qu'il sceut que cestoit ; mais trouvasmes puis après qu'un grand monstre marin avoit heurté contre le navire avec sa corne d'une violente force car lors qu'estions arrivez en la rivière de Porto Desire, & que nostre navire fut sur le rivage pour estre nettoyé & calfaté, nous trouvasmes en la proue du navire environ 7 pieds [2,10 m] sous l'eau une corne de façon & grosseur comme le bout d'une dent d'Eléphant, de longueur environ d'un pied [30 cm], estant rompu avec grande violence & force, ayant percé le navire tout outre, & pénétré par trois planches bien fortes & épaisses, tellement que

(sans nostre sceu) eussions esté en grand danger de perdre ensemble & le navire & la vie."
on October 5 [161]
we were by Lideg. 17mm [N. lat.
17mm [N. lat., Allantic
Ocean]), at 12 o'clock there was a great noise at the top of the
that the master thought that one of the sailors fall into
the sea, and looking aside, saw that the sea was covered
boat, so
with blood
But we
found
that
a
great
sea in custer
found about
had checked the boat with its hoe with violent strength
because while at Porto Desire river […] we
7 feet under the water a
about s foot long
tooth
hoen like the tip of an elephant